

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please add new claims 67-79 and rewrite the pending claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A device for use in association with a multimedia system for capturing and reproducing at least audio signals, the device being
 - A) associated with plurality of microphones; ~~and~~
 - B) configured to ~~selectively operate to perform one of: — i) adaptive acoustic stereo echo-canceling operations — (a) on audio signals captured by at least some of the associated microphones to produce at least one stereo echo-canceling audio signal; and~~
C)[(ii)] configured to perform synthetic aperture microphone processing on the audio signals captured by at least some of the associated microphones for producing at least one synthetic aperture microphone audio signal; and
D) configured to select between the adaptive acoustic stereo echo-canceling operations and the synthetic aperture microphone processing.
3. (Currently amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the adaptive acoustic stereo echo-canceling operations and synthetic aperture microphone processing capabilities are combined in a single packaging.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing adjusts a position of a spatial region corresponding to the area of maximum sensitivity of the synthetic aperture microphone function.
6. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, wherein ~~said~~the synthetic aperture microphone processing comprises performing at least one of a delay or frequency dispersion operation on the audio signal.
7. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, ~~further-comprising A/V elements configured to receive, transmit, encode, and decode for audio and video signals, reception and transmission; and audio and video signal encoding and decoding.~~
configured to receive, transmit, encode, and decode for audio and video signals, reception and transmission; and audio and video signal encoding and decoding.
- 8-56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[54]]2, ~~the device further comprising:~~
a network-port configured to for coupling said couple the device to a workstation.

58-62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, wherein ~~each of~~ the stereo echo-canceling audio signals and the synthetic aperture microphone audio signals are produced from the same microphone audio signals.

64-66. (Canceled)

67. (New) The device of claim 2, wherein the acoustic stereo echo-canceling operations and the synthetic aperture microphone processing are performed in a single processor.

68. (New) A method of capturing and reproducing at least audio signals, the method comprising:

receiving audio signals from a plurality of microphones;

performing adaptive acoustic stereo echo-canceling operations on the audio signals received from at least some of the microphones to produce at least one stereo echo-canceling audio signal;

performing synthetic aperture microphone processing on the audio signals received from at least some of the microphones to produce at least one synthetic aperture microphone audio signal; and

selecting between the adaptive acoustic stereo echo-canceling operations and the synthetic aperture microphone processing.

69. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the acoustic stereo echo-canceling operations and the synthetic aperture microphone processing are performed in a single processor.

70. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the stereo echo-canceling audio signals and the synthetic aperture microphone audio signals are produced from the same audio signals.

71. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing adjusts a position of a spatial region corresponding to the area of maximum sensitivity of the synthetic aperture microphone function.

72. (New) A multimedia collaboration system, the system comprising:
a plurality of audio signals received from a plurality of microphones;

a stereo echo-canceled audio signal produced by performing adaptive acoustic stereo echo-canceling operations on the audio signals received from at least some of the plurality of microphones; and

at least one synthetic aperture microphone audio signal produced by performing synthetic aperture microphone processing on the audio signals received from at least some of the plurality of microphones; and

wherein the system selects between the adaptive acoustic stereo echo-canceling operations and the synthetic aperture microphone processing.

73. (New) The system of claim 72, wherein the adaptive acoustic stereo echo-canceling operations and synthetic aperture microphone processing are combined in a single packaging.

74. (New) The system of claim 72, wherein the acoustic stereo echo-canceling operations and the synthetic aperture microphone processing are performed in a single processor.

75. (New) The system of claim 72, wherein the stereo echo-canceling audio signals and the synthetic aperture microphone audio signals are produced from the same audio signals.

76. (New) The system of claim 72, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing adjusts a position of a spatial region corresponding to the area of maximum sensitivity of the synthetic aperture microphone function.

77. (New) The system of claim 72, wherein the synthetic aperture microphone processing includes performing at least one of a delay or frequency dispersion operation on the audio signal.

78. (New) The system of claim 72, including A/V elements configured to receive, transmit, encode, and decode audio and video signals.

79. (New) The system of claim 72, wherein the system is coupled to a workstation.